

# 4 Agency Partnership (BLM, USFS, FHWA, ADOT) Planning Coordination Meeting Notes

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2015**

**TIME: 2:15 to 3:45 P.M.**

ADOT HRDC  
1130 N. 22<sup>nd</sup> Avenue  
Phoenix, AZ 85009

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This Planning Coordination meeting was held immediately following the partnership annual meeting and the agenda for this meeting was included with the agenda for the partnership annual meeting. The report for the annual meeting can be found on the ADOT Public Partnership [web page](#). The following people attended this portion of the meeting.

**ATTENDEES:**

Becky Heick, BLM DSD Lands and Minerals  
Bill Gibson, BLM Travel Management/Trails Lead  
Bret Anderson, ADOT Program Manager  
Celeste Mimnaugh, BLM Realty Specialist/ADOT Liaison  
Chris Miller, USFS Civil Engineer  
Dan Hager, USFS Director of Engineering Region 3  
Danny Montoya, USFS Acting Deputy Regional Forester  
Debbie MacIvor, USFS Forest Engineer Apache-Sitgreaves  
Ed Stillings, FHWA Senior Transportation Planner  
Jackie Neckels, BLM Planning and Environmental Coordinator  
Joel Mona, USFS Civil Engineer/ADOT Liaison Tonto NF  
Karen Simms, BLM Assistant Field Manager – TFO  
Kenna Belsky, USFS Assistant Forest Planner Tonto NF  
Linda Davis, ADOT Historic Preservation Team Lead  
Linda Dunlavey, BLM Realty Specialist  
Matt Moul, ADOT Globe Assistant District Engineer  
Michael Kies, ADOT Director Planning and Programming  
Nancy Favour, BLM Planning/Environmental Specialist  
Richard Reitz, USFS District Ranger Tonto NF  
Steven R. Johnson, USFS Civil Engineer  
Terresa Reed, BLM Civil Engineer  
Terrin Lane, USFS Civil Engineer Tonto NF  
Tom Torres, USFS Engineering Staff Officer Tonto NF

**FACILITATOR:** Bonnie Opie

**BLM** – Jackie Neckels provided an update on land use planning for the BLM. The San Pedro Riparian National Conservation area is completing a Resource Management Plan (RMP). Public meetings will be held in the spring. This plan includes a Travel Management Plan. There are six cooperating agencies, including ADOT, which will be given opportunity to comment.

The following two links were shared with the group:

[http://www.blm.gov/az/st/en/prog/planning/san\\_pedro.html](http://www.blm.gov/az/st/en/prog/planning/san_pedro.html)

<http://www.blm.gov/style/medialib/blm/az/pdfs/planning.Par.74858.File.dat/PlanningAreas.pdf>

Nancy Favour told the group that BLM is moving to a new system called ePlanning for publishing NEPA documents. This is a web based system to create an enterprise approach to NEPA. Cooperating agencies and the public can access documents through the portal. The system allows comments on specific parts of the document; documents open faster than a typical PDF and can be searched by issue area. This is a big change for field staff and they are going through a learning curve. Revised instructions for new users; step-by-step instructions and a short video tutorial should be posted soon. The BLM technical folks are working on electronic notification of updates to project websites and this could be implemented as early as July. The website can be found here:

[https://www.blm.gov/epl-front-office/eplanning/nepa/nepa\\_register.do](https://www.blm.gov/epl-front-office/eplanning/nepa/nepa_register.do)

An attendee from the USFS told the group that USFS has a similar system but it is by Forest and only provides information, not the ability to make comments.

Bill Gibson provided an update on Travel Management Plans. Plan revisions are on the horizon but funding is not available to implement the revisions. Between 10 and 15 field offices will be completing plans in the next three to five years. Ten are complete now and another eight should be complete by the end of September. A total of 37,000 miles have been inventoried on 12 million acres of land. It will complete 80% of the route designations by the year 2020.

**USFS** – Tom Torres and Kenna Belsky provided an update on the Travel Management Rule. There are six national forests with approximately 26,000 miles of roads on approximately 25 million acres of land. They shared two presentations and a video with the group. The presentations are available on the ADOT Public Partnership [web page](#) and the video and further information is available on this webpage: [Tontoplan.org](http://Tontoplan.org). Key points of the presentations included:

- The Tonto NF is completing an assessment now. The deadline is mid-May.
- Implementation could include:
  - an interface between ADOT and the forest
  - potential change of access points
  - potential fencing changes

**ADOT** – Mike Kies provided a presentation about the I-11 Feasibility Study. His presentation is available on the ADOT Public Partnership [web page](#). He told the group that this study is being done from a multimodal corridor perspective. It is important that the project is done right the first time. ADOT and Nevada are partnering on this project.

BLM asked if ADOT was aware of the 368 Corridor Study for West Wide Energy. ADOT is aware and recently sent a letter to the BLM State Office.

**ADOT** – Bret Anderson provided a presentation about the ADOT programming process. His presentation is available on the ADOT Public Partnership [web page](#). Programming that affects USFS or BLM was shown on a high level map. The current ADOT Five-Year Transportation Facilities Construction Program can be found on the ADOT website: <http://www.azdot.gov/planning/transportation-programming/current-program>. BLM and USFS should contact the District for specific project information. District contact information can be found on the ADOT website: <http://www.azdot.gov/business/district-contacts>